

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

The allowability of claims 6-7, 9, 19 and 23-24 is noted with appreciation.

By way of the amendment instructions above, the subject matter of prior claims 15 and 16 has been incorporated into claim 1, and as such claims 15-16 have now been canceled as redundant. The preamble expression of those claims which depend ultimately from amended claim 1 has also been changed so as to be consistent.

The only issues remaining to be resolved in this application are the examiner's rejections based on Caillaut (USP 5,530,344). Specifically, many of the previously presented claims attracted rejections under 35 USC §§102(b) or 103(a) based on the applied Caillaut patent (USP 5,530,344). Applicant suggests that the claims presented herewith are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious from Caillaut.

In this regard, applicant notes that the applied Caillaut patent discloses a plastic component (axially magnetized ring shaped magnet 14) with a high filling grade which is connected to a basic body (13) via an intermediary (seal 15) made of an elastic material. The ring-shaped magnet 14 comprises an annular projection 14e which engages into an annular groove (15e) of the seal 15 forming a locking connection between the seal 15 and the magnet 14. As shown by Figures 3 and 4 of the Caillaut patent, a projection adjacent to the annular groove 15e of the seal 15 is embedded in a groove adjacent to the projection Mc of the magnet 14 by a frictional and/or positive connection.

It should be noted, however, that the seal 15 forms an "intermediary" between the magnet 14 and the basic body 13 only at the radially inward side of the magnet 14. Thus, no intermediary is formed by means of the seal 15 according to Caillaut **axially** between the basic body 13 and the magnet 14 at their respective axial faces. Instead, Caillaut discloses that the magnet 14 is provided with axial crenellations 14b which

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Serial No. 09/777,866
March 30, 2005

penetrate into windows 13c of the basic body 13. Because of the different materials of the magnet 14 and the body 13, strains may occur under changing thermal conditions in the axial connecting area within the range of the crenellations 14b penetrating into the windows which might cause damage to and/or cracks in the magnet 14.

In contrast, according to the present invention, damage to and cracks in the plastic component under changing thermal conditions are avoided by essentially "sandwiching" the intermediary component between the respective axial faces of the highly filled plastic component and the basic body. It is therefore important that the intermediary component made of elastic material is embedded with its at least one projection in a groove or opening in the axial face of the plastic component so as to create a frictional and/or positive connection therewith.

It is therefore suggested that the applied Caillaut patent cannot anticipate or render obvious the claims now pending in this application. As such, withdrawal of all art-based rejections against the pending claims and their early passage to issuance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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